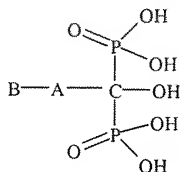


Amendments to the Claims:

This listing of claims will replace all prior versions and listings of claims in the application.

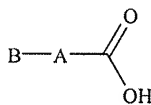
Listing of Claims:

1. (Original) A process for preparation of bisphosphonic acid, a compound of formula 1 or a salt thereof,



Formula 1

comprising reacting a carboxylic acid compound of formula 2 or a salt thereof

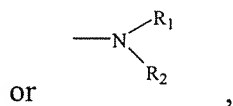


Formula 2

wherein,

A is a straight chain alkyl, a branched alkyl or a cyclic alkyl chain with up to 10 carbon atoms, which can optionally contain hetero atoms in between and,

B is alkyl, aralkyl, aromatic or heteroaromatic group, which can be optionally substituted;



or

wherein, R₁ and R₂ may be selected from hydrogen or straight chain, branched or cyclic lower alkyl,

with phosphorous acid and a phosphorous chloride selected from PCl₃, PCl₅ and POCl₃, in sulfolane.

2. (Original) The process as claimed in claim 1, wherein the carboxylic acid is 4-aminobutyric acid and the bisphosphonic acid is alendronic acid.

3. (Original) The process as claimed in claim 1, wherein the carboxylic acid is 3-aminopropionic acid and the bisphosphonic acid is pamidronic acid.
4. (Original) The process as claimed in claim 1, wherein the carboxylic acid is 3-pyridylacetic acid and the bisphosphonic acid is risedronic acid.
5. (Original) The process as claimed in claim 1, wherein the carboxylic acid is 1-imidazolylacetic acid and the bisphosphonic acid is zoledronic acid.
6. (Original) The process as claimed in claim 1, wherein the carboxylic acid is N-(n-pentyl)-N-methyl-3-aminopropionic acid and the bisphosphonic acid is ibandronic acid.
7. (Original) The process as claimed in claim 1, wherein the carboxylic acid is 2-(imidazo[1,2-a]pyridin-2-yl)ethanoic acid and the bisphosphonic acid is minodronic acid.
8. (Original) The process as claimed in claim 1, wherein the carboxylic acid is 6-aminohexanoic acid and the bisphosphonic acid is neridronic acid.
9. (Original) The process as claimed in claim 1, wherein the carboxylic acid is 3-(dimethylamino)propionic acid and the bisphosphonic acid is olpadronic acid.
10. (New) The process as claimed in claim 2, wherein the yield of alendronic acid is 69% of theoretical yield and the purity of the alendronic acid is at least 99%.
11. (New) The process as claimed in claim 3, wherein the yield of pamidronic acid is 76% of theoretical yield and the purity of the pamidronic acid is at least 99%.
12. (New) The process as claimed in claim 4, wherein the yield of risedronic acid is 70% of theoretical yield and the purity of the risedronic acid is at least 99%.

13. (New) The process as claimed in claim 5, wherein the yield of zoledronic acid is at least about 70% of theoretical yield.
14. (New) The process as claimed in claim 5, wherein the purity of the zoledronic acid is at least 99.5%.